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27 February 1961

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CENTRAL REFERENCE

9 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Committee on Exploitation of Foreign
Language Publications

SUBJECT: Procurement of Chinese Communist Publications

REFERENCE: Your memorandum of 16 January 1961, subject:
Clandestine Procurement of Chinese Communist
Publications

1. This is our first progress report on the above subject as it pertains to your referenced memorandum.

2. Several sources of Chicom materials which during the past twelve to fourteen months provided the community with some critical publications have today either ceased to be productive sources altogether or else have been severely limited in their capacity to provide what is required. Among the more productive sources whose current ability to provide publications is now in question, are the ^{25X1X4} [REDACTED] We are hopeful that there will remain among this group one or two missions which may still provide us with some support.

3. Foremost among the CIA Library's current acquisition projects to obtain Chicom publications are the following:

^{25X6D4} [REDACTED]

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c. The Scandia Plan, also known as the Sino-Nordic Library exchange program, is reported by Embassy Helsinki to be a going exchange program" involving the exchange of Chicom and Scandinavian scientific and technical publications between the national and certain academic libraries of Denmark, Finland and Sweden and the Academia Sinica Library of Communist China. The total number of Chicom scientific and technical titles currently being exchanged is twenty-six (26), some of which have not previously been received in Washington. All of them are considered important publications, and the CIA Library has already taken steps with the appropriate U.S. missions to procure these publications from the Scandinavian repositories involved.

d. Arrangements have been made with the National Science Foundation to have the CIA Library obtain Chicom publications received by any of the academic libraries associated with the Committee on American Library Resources on the Far East (CALRFE), the Joint Committee on Contemporary China, and the Association of Asian Studies. In addition, NSF is ensuring that the CIA Library will receive original or photocopy of Chicom publications received by any of the professional indexing and abstracting services which maintain exchanges with Communist China.

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e. It is anticipated that, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] will continue to receive Chicom provincial press during calendar year 1961 for as long as their current subscriptions hold out. In other words, certain provincial newspaper subscriptions will have expired in January, others during February, others during March, etc. of 1961 --- as each subscription expires, it will not, unfortunately, be renewed. This implies a staggered rather than an abrupt cessation of receipts in the CIA Library from this source.

4. Now further to provide insurance against failure of any of the above actions, we have initiated discussions with FE/DDP. These discussions focus on the critical title list prepared by [REDACTED] I am certain that this close

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coordination between our procurement function and your exploitation staff will provide a maximum efficiency for our joint enterprise. The discussions with FE/DDP have been encouraging in that the FE people are prepared to give us all aid possible. They are aware as we are of the criticality of the Chicom publication procurement problem.

5. I consider it appropriate therefore that we develop fully the projects described in paragraph 3. above while we continue the explorations with FE/DDP. As you may recall, we have still in force a clandestine collection requirement for the Chicom military newspaper Chieh-fang Chun Pao (Liberation Army News). As of today, more than a year since the submission of that requirement, we have yet to receive any issues of the paper via that channel. I am convinced that we should not concern ourselves too heavily with the possibility of duplication of effort in this procurement, but rather should strive for collection by any source available.

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[REDACTED]
Chairman, Committee on Procurement
of
Foreign Publications

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